

JOHN T. DAVIS

1704 Norris Dr.
Austin, TX 78704
512-443-0155

jtdav@earthlink.net

Writing history includes two broad areas: Newspaper and magazine journalism in a variety of capacities (freelance writer, staff reporter, columnist) and non-fiction book work (author, editor, fact-checker, ghostwriter). I consider myself to have a well-rounded background in journalism, including news reporting, feature writing, interviewing and editing in the fields of music, travel, entertainment, popular culture and other related fields. As an author and editor, I have dealt with biographies, history and Texas culture.

JOURNALIST:

Job Strengths: Expert in organizing, fact-checking, researching, preparing and presenting material in a journalistic or narrative format; Highly-developed interview skills; Accustomed to working under deadline on multiple projects; Recognized for expertise in several specific fields of musical interest including (but not limited to) roots, folk, country, Americana, blues; Also possess experience in writing about various aspects of life, travel and culture in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and the Southwest.

- Freelance writer in music, features, profiles, travel for a variety of regional, state and national magazines, including (but not limited to): *Texas Monthly*, *Texas Highways*, *Austin Monthly*, *New Mexico* magazine, *Louisiana Life* magazine, *Billboard*, *Nashville Scene*, *The Mix*, *No Depression*, *Newsday*, the *Dallas Observer*, *Gavin Report*, *Request*, *American Way* (American Airlines' magazine), *Midwest Express* (Midwest Express Airlines' magazine), *Vogue* (UK edition), others.
- Staff writer, columnist and freelance writer in music, features, travel, profiles, Metro and Lifestyle for the *Austin American-Statesman* (daily paper) and the *Austin Chronicle* (weekly alternative paper).
- Interviewed as an expert on Texas music, country music and roots music for the 2004 documentary film *Lubbock Lights* and a forthcoming project featuring balladeer Bobby Bridger, as well as on VH-1 ("Behind The Music: Willie Nelson") and CMT ("The 50 Greatest Cowboy Songs," "The 100 Greatest Country Songs"). Interviewed on numerous occasions as an expert on Texas music for the nationally-syndicated NPR radio program

Texas Music Matters. Conducted interviews for the 2005 documentary film *Antone's: Home of the Blues*. Also interviewed numerous times on diverse subjects on the NPR Austin affiliate KUT-FM.

AUTHOR:

Barton Spring Eternal; The Soul of A City (as a contributor) (Softshoe Publishing, 1993)

Austin: Lone Star Rising (Towery Publishing, 1994)

Gypsy Songman (Jerry Jeff Walker autobiography) (as copy editor and fact checker) (Woodford Press, 1999)

Austin City Limits: 25 Years of American Music (Billboard Press, 2000)

The Best of No Depression—Writing About American Music (as a contributor) (University of Texas Press, 2005)

Whiskey River (Take My Mind): The True Story of Texas Honky-Tonk (Johnny Bush autobiography) (as editorial assistant and contributing author, with Rick Mitchell) (University of Texas Press, 2007)

Insight Guides: Texas (as contributor)—Researched, fact-checked, re-wrote several chapters of the latest edition of *Insight Guides: Texas*, a comprehensive guidebook to the state (APA Publications, London, 2007)

FREELANCE WRITER (Excluding magazine work, see above):

- Authored catalog, photo captions and related copy for *Austin City Limits: Making Music-Making History*, a museum show that premiered at the 2004 Austin City Limits Music Festival and the New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music (a Smithsonian-affiliated museum in Gruene, Texas).
- Authored liner notes for numerous record albums, CDs and video projects, including (but not limited to) releases by: Willie Nelson (Columbia Records box set), *Don't Mess With Texas, Vol. 4* (Texas Music Project sampler), Jerry Jeff Walker, Antone's Records, Marcia Ball, others.

- Researched and authored scores of promotional biographies commissioned by artists and record companies for use in promotion of new album and CD releases. Profiled artists include (but are not limited to): Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson, Shawn Colvin, Mary Chapin-Carpenter, the Texas Tornados, Joe Ely, the Flatlanders, Reckless Kelly, the Greencards, others.
- Authored captions for archival photographs of musicians and bands showcased at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, Texas.
- Named contributing editor to *No Depression* magazine in Feb. 2007

OTHER:

- June 2008—Featured panelist at the 2008 Association of American Editorial Cartoonists Association
- June 2009—Winner of Third Place, “Magazine/Feature” at the 2009 Lone Star Awards, a statewide contest sponsored by the Houston Press Club

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

1975-1977: University of Texas at Austin; Received Bachelor of Journalism (Magazine sequence) degree.

1973-1975: University of Missouri, Columbia, MO; Studied Journalism School curriculum

1970-1973: Richardson High School, Richardson, TX; Worked on student newspaper and annual staffs.

REFERENCES:

Terry Lickona (Producer, *Austin City Limits* PBS television show)

Susan Walker (Manager, Jerry Jeff Walker; President, Tried & True Music)

Marty Lange (Assistant Editor, *Texas Highways* magazine)